



**DATE:** March 12, 2014

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members

**FROM:** Environmental Health Committee  
Keith Grellner, Chair

**SUBJECT: HEARING ON WAC 246-101-010, NOTIFIABLE CONDITIONS –  
DEFINITIONS – ELEVATED BLOOD LEAD LEVEL**

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**Background and Summary:**

The Washington State Board of Health has responsibility under RCW 43.20.050 to adopt rules to prevent communicable and also noninfectious diseases. The Board's actions to do this include the notifiable conditions rules' definition of elevated blood lead level under WAC 246-101-101(12). The current definition is set at equal to or greater than 10 micrograms per deciliter of blood for children under fifteen years old and equal to or greater than 25 micrograms per deciliter for older individuals. The younger a person is the more susceptible he or she is to the effects of lead. The Department is also recommending some "housekeeping" amendments to this rule at this time.

Although no level of lead is considered safe, recently revised Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines set levels of concern at equal to or greater than 5 micrograms per deciliter of blood for children under fifteen and 10 micrograms per deciliter for older individuals. The Department proposes the Board amend its rule definition to match the current national recommendations.

The Board received a briefing on this rule revision proposal at its January 8, 2014 meeting. Rad Cunningham, of the Department of Health's Environmental Epidemiology Program, is back today to explain public comments received since the CR-102 was filed on February 4, 2014 and recommendations by the Department about this proposal to revise 246-101-010. A copy of the presentation, the CR-102, and public comments can be found under Tab 7 of today's packet.

**Recommended Board Action:**

Depending on testimony offered, the Board may choose to consider the following motion.

***Motion:** The Board adopts revisions to WAC 246-101-010 as proposed in WSR 14-04-113. The Board directs staff to monitor CDC guidelines for blood lead and recommend the Board consider updates to this rule when appropriate.*

**Staff Contact:** Ned Therien

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